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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/395.515 09/14/99 KEREK

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JACKSON LAW CORPORATION
14751 PLAZA DRIVE
SUITE N
TUSTIN CA 92780

MMC1/0717

EXAMINER

NASRI, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED:

07/17/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/395,515

Applicant(s)
Kerek

Examiner
Javaid Nasri

Group Art Unit
2839



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☒ The drawing(s) filed on Sep 14, 1999 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In the specification line 13, change "pending" to -- abandoned on 2/4/2000--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - A) In claim 6, line 1, change "where" to --wherein--.
 - B) In claim 6, line 2, change "one hole" to --one axial hole--.
 - C) In claim 6, line 4, change "an" to --and--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the
 - a) fingers grasps the male pin about .025 to .045 inches from the free end of the socket body per claims 2, 13 and 17

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must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- A) In claims 2, 13 and 17, it is not clear what is meant by --the fingers grasps the male pin about .025 to .045 inches from the free end of the socket body--.
- B) Claim 3 recites the limitation "the ends" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- C) In claim 5 the dimples are on the fingers of the spring member then how can they are disposed axially at different distances from the free end of the socket body. It should not be noted that the spring member and the socket body are two separate items.
- D) Claim 7 recites the limitation "the spring contact" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- E) Claim 8 recites the limitation "the forward end" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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- F) Claim 8 is confusing.
- G) Claim 9 recites the limitation "the socket body" in line 14. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- H) Claim 10 recites the limitation "the tubularly shaped wall" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- I) In claim 11, line 5, it is not clear which bore is being referred to.
- J) In claim 14 there is "a male pin contact" on line 6 and again there is "a pin contact" on line 10. How can there be two pin contacts.
- K) Claim 18 recites the limitation "the two" in line 17. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
- L) In claim 20, line 2, "a female coupling portion" is already in claim 18.
- M) In claim 21, lines 5-11 are confusing.
- N) Claim 21 recites the limitation "the spring" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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7. Claims 1-3 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wymelenberg.

Regarding claim 1, Wymelenberg discloses a hoodless female contact for engaging a male pin comprising: a socket body having two ends with at least one axial hole defining an open free male contact receiving end and an open wire-receiving end for connection with an electrical conductor; and a spring located in the hole defining the male contact receiving end, including a forward portion and rear portion, the forward portion having a plurality of forwardly and inwardly extending fingers which terminate near the free male contact receiving end for resiliently grasping the male pin in close proximity to the free end.

Regarding claim 2, Wymelenberg discloses the fingers grasp the male pin about .025 to .045 inches from the free end of the socket body.

Regarding claim 3, Wymelenberg discloses the fingers flare out at the ends thereof facilitating insertion of the male pin. in between the fingers.

Regarding claim 6, Wymelenberg discloses at least one hole comprises a first and second axial holes., the first axial hole defining the open free end for receiving a male contact and the second axial hole defining the open end for receiving the electrical conductor and further comprising an electrical conductor - inserted into the second axial hole of the socket body and means for attaching the socket body to the electrical conductor.

Regarding claim 7, Wymelenberg discloses the socket body is crimped onto the rear portion of the spring contact.

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Regarding claim 8, Wymelenberg discloses the free end of the socket body is rolled over to extend radially inwardly beyond the forward end of the spring to prevent removal of the spring from the hole and to center a mating pin contact.

8. Claims 9-11, 14 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nestor et al.

Regarding claim 9, Nestor et al. discloses a female contact comprising: a tubularly shaped body member defining a first axially disposed blind bore with a free end for receiving a male contact and a second axially disposed blind bore at (29) sized and shaped to receive an electrical conductor; and a male contact engaging spring (20) seated entirely in the first bore, the spring having front and rear portions, the front portion of the spring having a female coupling portion adjacent to the free end and the rear portion of the spring and the socket body having cooperative securing means for securely holding the spring in fixed position within the body member.

Regarding claim 10, Nestor et al. discloses the cooperative securing means comprises a selected portion of the tubularly shaped wall being roll formed into the rear portion of the spring.

Regarding claim 11, Nestor et al. discloses the first blind bore has an inwardly projecting shoulder (14), the rear portion of the spring seating against the shoulder to inhibit rearward movement of the spring within the bore of the body.

Regarding claim 14, Nestor et al. discloses a tubular socket member having a first hole therein with an open free end for receiving the male pin contact and a second hole therein sized and shaped for receiving an electrical conductor; a pin contact; and a tubular spring member

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seated in the first hole of the tubular socket member establishing a tight fit therein to prevent movement of the spring member relative to the tubular socket member, the spring member having a forwardly extending female coupling portion terminating adjacent the open free end of the first hole, the male providing socket body with bore having a wall, a free open end for receiving the spring member and a conductor receiving end; inserting the spring member entirely within the socket body with the female coupling portion adjacent to the free end; crimping the socket body wall onto the spring member to push a portion of the socket body wall into the spring member to hold the two together; providing an electrical conductor; inserting the electrical conductor in the socket body at the conductor receiving end; and crimping the socket body wall onto the conductor.

Regarding claim 17, Negster et al. discloses the female coupling portion grasps the male contact within about .025 to .045 inches of the first end.

Regarding claim 18, Negster et al. discloses steps of providing a tubular spring member, a socket body, crimping the socket body wall onto the spring member, crimping the socket body wall onto the electrical conductor.

Regarding claim 19, Negster et al. discloses the step of: providing a male contact; and inserting the male contact into the spring contact female coupling portion establishing an electrical coupling therebetween.

9. Claims 9, 12, 13 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wymelenberg.

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Regarding claim 9, Wymelenberg..discloses a female contact comprising: a tubularly shaped body member defining a first axially disposed blind bore with a free end for receiving a male contact and a second axially disposed blind bore at sized and shaped to receive an electrical conductor; and a male contact engaging spring seated entirely in the first bore, the spring having front and rear portions, the front portion of the spring having a female coupling portion adjacent to the free end and the rear portion of the spring and the socket body having cooperative securing means for securely holding the spring in fixed position within the body member.

Regarding claim 12, Wymelenberg..discloses a male pin adapted to be inserted into the front female coupling portion of the spring, the female coupling portion having a plurality of forwardly projecting fingers which are arranged to engage the male pin inserted therebetween in close proximity to the free end of the socket body.

Regarding claim 13, Wymelenberg..discloses the fingers engage the male pin within about .025 to 0.45 inches from the free end of the tubularly shaped member.

Regarding claim 18, Wymelenberg .discloses steps of providing a tubular spring member, a socket body, crimping the socket body wall onto the spring member, crimping the socket body wall onto the electrical conductor.

Regarding claim 19, Wymelenberg .discloses the step of: providing a male contact; and inserting the male contact into the spring contact female coupling portion establishing an electrical coupling therebetween.

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Regarding claim 20, Wymelenberg discloses the spring member is formed with a female coupling portion in the form of a plurality of resilient fingers which are spread apart upon the insertion of the male contact.

Regarding claim 21, Wymelenberg discloses the plurality of resilient fingers of the spring member have a proximal end positioned adjacent the open spring receiving end of the socket body bore and further including the step of rolling the wall of the socket body adjacent the free spring member receiving end to form an inwardly projecting shoulder which limits the outward movement of the proximal end of the resilient fingers to thereby inhibit damage to the spring by an oversize mating male pin.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wymelenberg in view of Trafton.

It would have been obvious for Wymelenberg, 's fingers to have dimples disposed along the extent of the fingers at different axial distances from the free end of the socket body in view of Trafton as this would reduce the insertion force needed to insert a male pin between the fingers.

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12. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nestor et al in view of Sakurai.

It would have been obvious for Nestor et al 's rear portion of the spring in view of Sakurai to have burrs (40) to have a tight fit.

It would have been obvious for Nestor et al's rear portion of the spring in view of Sakurai to have indentation formed of an angularly disposed groove (34) by selected portion of the tubularly shaped wall being rolled to form into a groove to securely hold the spring in fixed position within the body.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Javaid Nasri at telephone number (703) 308 5876. For any inquiry of general nature related to the status of this application should be directed to Group receptionist at (703) 308-0956. The group fax number is (703) 308 7722 or (703) 308 7724.

JN


NEIL ABRAMS
EXAMINER
ART UNIT 322